

Application No.: 10/646,852
Filing Date: 08/22/2003

REMARKS

Prior to this Amendment, Claims 1-13, 15-22, 27, and 33-38 were pending. Claims 1, 15, and 23-26 are canceled herein and Claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 20, and 27 are amended, leaving Claims 2-13, 16-22, 27, and 33-38 pending. Support for the amendments can be found in the claims as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner found the subject matter of Claims 33-38 to be allowable and the subject matter of Claims 15-22 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 15, and 23-26 are canceled herein and Claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 20, and 27 are amended to depend from allowable Claim 38 instead of Claim 1. Claims 2-13, 16-22, and 27 all depend from allowable Claim 38.

Applicant submits that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, the Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that the Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. If there is any further hindrance to allowance of the pending claims, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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